



## Policy Brief

### International Planned Parenthood Federation & Children's "Right" to Sex

International Planned Parenthood Federation seeks to establish "sexual rights" as internationally protected human rights. A major way they seek to accomplish this goal is by exposing children and teenagers to graphic sexual materials and teaching them that experiencing sexual pleasure is not only a human right to which they are entitled, but is necessary for their health and well-being.

#### Origins of IPPF

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) was founded in 1952 with the emerging motto: "Be brave and angry," which is still in use today. IPPF has six regional offices that oversee 152 Member Associations in 172 countries. IPPF maintains 65,000 service points worldwide. Major services they promote include contraceptives, abortion, and STI/HIV testing.

#### IPPF Philosophy: "Sexual Rights are Human Rights"

IPPF's prevailing philosophy is that sexual pleasure is a basic right that should be protected under the banner of human rights. IPPF's core values statement says: "IPPF believes that Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights should be guaranteed for everyone **because they are internationally recognized human rights.**"<sup>1</sup>

The strategy of promoting sexual rights as "human rights" was adopted by IPPF in 1992.<sup>2</sup> It's advocacy of this "rights"-based approach has been a major factor contributing to the decline of sexual responsibility and fidelity as engaging in casual sexual intercourse has become a perceived "right" rather than a means of forming and sustaining lasting relationships and families.

However, even IPPF itself at times has had to admit that their effort to redefine the range of accepted human rights is a stretch. For example, Carmen Barroso, Western Hemisphere Regional Director for IPPF, stated, "**Traditional human rights, they were civil and political rights, they were not referring to the sexuality of anybody.**"<sup>3</sup> This statement concedes that human rights as they were originally outlined and internationally agreed upon had nothing to do with sexuality or sexual rights. Further, Esther Vicente, Chair of IPPF's panel on Sexual Rights called promoting sexual rights as human rights a "new concept,"<sup>4</sup> again conceding that the

<sup>1</sup> <http://ippf.org/about-us>

<sup>2</sup> <http://ippf.org/resource/Happy-60th-Birthday-IPPF>

<sup>3</sup> <http://ippf.org/resource/IPPFs-Sexual-Rights-Declaration>

<sup>4</sup> <http://ippf.org/resource/IPPFs-Sexual-Rights-Declaration>

inclusion of sexual rights under the umbrella of human rights was never the intent of original human rights declarations or agreements.

Nevertheless, as a result of the concerted efforts of IPPF and others to force “sexual rights” onto the stage with legitimate human rights, the right to engage in virtually any sexual behavior is now increasingly masquerading as a genuine human right rather than being viewed as a personal choice that carries not only responsibilities, but often grave risks and costs for individuals, families, communities and nations. The results of this paradigm change can be seen in the approach IPPF and its member associations use in sexualizing children.

### **Planned Parenthood’s Sexuality Education Materials (Warning: Graphic Content)**

IPPF and its member associations specifically target children and young people in their efforts to promote sexuality under the guise of sexual rights. Planned Parenthood Federation of America (widely known as Planned Parenthood) is one of the largest IPPF member associations. Here are some resources Planned Parenthood uses to educate children about sexuality:

- ***It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health.***<sup>5</sup> This illustrated children’s book openly normalizes homosexuality and contains graphic illustrations of both male and female children masturbating. Masturbation is encouraged as a normal and desirable behavior. The book shows illustrations of entirely nude men and women having sex, and of naked girls and boys in a variety of situations.
- ***The G Spot Show.***<sup>6</sup> This cartoon, created by Flickerlab for Planned Parenthood, is a program that introduces children to sexual topics. The show is hosted by two characters: one is an animated penis and the other, a vagina. In the episode, *How Pregnancy Happens*, the penis and vagina characters present a sex-ed lesson explaining the mechanics of fertilization and implantation. Throughout the episode the two characters engage in crass dialogue, joking about the many places people can have sex. The penis character gets repeatedly aroused, and the episode ends with him inviting the vagina over to his place.
- ***Planned Parenthood Website - INFO FOR TEENS.*** The INFO FOR TEENS section at [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org) addresses a wide range of sexual topics including the following:

#### **Masturbation**

Is masturbation unhealthy?

*Answers include the assertion that women who masturbate have higher self-esteem, and men who masturbate have lower rates of certain cancers.*

Is there such thing as too much masturbation?

Is it normal to masturbate before puberty?

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<sup>5</sup> Harris, Robie. *It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 3 edition, 2009. Print.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7XR9yH2ETk>

If I masturbate with an object, can it give me a sexually transmitted infection?  
What should I do if my parents catch me masturbating?

## LGBTQ

How do I know if I'm gay?

Is it true that it's easier to get a sexually transmitted infection if you're LGBTQ?

What does "transgender" mean?

*Answer: "Some people find that their gender identity is not in sync with their sex — for example, someone with a penis might be declared a boy at birth, but grow up feeling, thinking, and acting more like a girl. Many people who feel this way call themselves transgender... **Transgender** can include people who are simply not satisfied with the strict gender roles society dictates, those who enjoy "playing" the other gender. The term transgender also includes those who take hormones and/or have surgery to alter their physical bodies to match their gender identity, also known as **transsexual**." [sic]*

Also of interest is this statement in the masturbation section: "***The myth is that it's abnormal for children to masturbate. The truth is that masturbation is a perfectly healthy activity at any age...In fact, experts recommend that parents teach children that it's normal for people to touch their sex organs for pleasure.***" The teen section of [plannedparenthood.org](http://plannedparenthood.org) also includes a **birth control quiz** (including information on the "**morning-after pill**") and a **mock game show segment** wherein a teenage girl promotes and normalizes masturbation.

Particularly concerning is the answer to the question listed above, "**Is it true that it's easier to get a sexually transmitted infection if you're LGBTQ?**" *Answer: "No. Anyone who has sex with another person is at risk of getting a sexually transmitted infection. A gay person's chance of infection is no different from a straight person's."* While it is true that simply declaring a particular sexual orientation does not increase the odds of infection, male homosexuals suffer significantly higher rates of infection for many STIs, leading the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to acknowledge that there is a "disproportionate burden of disease among gay and bisexual men."<sup>7</sup> Also omitted from the answer is the acknowledgment that two people who are infection free and have sex only with each other are completely free of infection risk from sexual intercourse. IPPF ignores the reality that the best ways to stem the growing epidemic of STIs and unwanted pregnancies is abstaining from sex before marriage and practicing fidelity after marriage (i.e., sexual responsibility and monogamy) because these realities neither support IPPF's sexual rights rhetoric nor advance their business model.

Additionally concerning is that as teens move into their college-age years, Planned Parenthood's VOX program is ready to help emerging adults continue to exercise their sexual rights through providing services such as "pants-off parties," orgasm workshops, and vaginal and anal fisting kits.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Bolan, Gail. "Syphilis and HIV: A Dangerous Duo Affecting Gay and Bisexual Men." [Blog.aids.gov](http://blog.aids.gov). Dec. 13, 2012. Web. Accessed Jan. 10, 2014.

<sup>8</sup> Hooking Kids On Sex II. American Life League. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7XR9yH2ETk>. Accessed Jan. 10, 2014.

## IPPF Publications

- ***“Happy, Healthy and Hot”***<sup>9</sup> is one of over 200 publications and videos available on the IPPF website. This pamphlet is intended for youth who are HIV positive. The pamphlet, which has been distributed to youth at the UN, makes this astounding and very disturbing assertion: **“Young people living with HIV have the right to decide if, when and how to disclose their HIV status.”**<sup>10</sup> “Happy, Healthy and Hot” also condemns the fact that “some countries have laws that say people living with HIV must tell their sexual partner(s) about their status before having sex,” stating that “these laws violate the rights of people living with HIV.”<sup>11</sup>

“Happy, Healthy and Hot” asserts that “young people living with HIV have the right to sexual pleasure” and suggests ways readers can obtain sexual pleasure.<sup>12</sup> The pamphlet encourages masturbation and instructs readers to “explore your partner’s body with your hands and mouth...Talk about or act out your fantasies. Talk dirty to them. Tickle, tease and make them feel good.”<sup>13</sup> It further states, “Lots of people don’t mind whether their partner(s) is HIV negative or positive.”<sup>14</sup> The overriding message of the document is that people who are HIV positive have a right to sexual pleasure even at the risk of exposing others to a potentially deadly disease.

- ***“Exclaim! Young people’s guide to “Sexual rights: an IPPF declaration”***<sup>15</sup> is a pamphlet promoting sexuality at all stages of life including childhood and young adulthood stating:

- “There is a common misconception that young people are not, or should not be sexual beings with the exception of...married young people or young people above a certain age. Sexuality is a central aspect of being human during **all phases** of each person’s life.”<sup>16</sup>

- “Sexuality and sexual pleasure are important parts of being human for everyone-**no matter what age**, no matter if you’re married or not and no matter if you want to have children or not.”<sup>17</sup>

- “Any limitation on sexual rights must be non-discriminatory, **including on the grounds of age.**”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> *Happy, Healthy and Hot: A young people’s guide to rights, sexuality and living with HIV*. London: IPPF. 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, p. 3.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p. 6.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, p. 7.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, p. 8.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, p. 4.

<sup>15</sup> *Exclaim! Young people’s guide to ‘Sexual rights: an IPPF declaration*. London: IPPF. April 2011.

[http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf\\_exclaim\\_lores.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf_exclaim_lores.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, p. 9.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, p. 37.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, p. 21.

- “**Parental involvement** or spousal consent laws that prevent young people from seeking sexual and reproductive health services” **should be removed.**<sup>19</sup>

- **Other publications available on the IPPF website include:**

*Sex Between Men in Your City*

*Falling in Love with HIV*

*The Truth About Men, Boys and Sex*

*Sexual Diversity: From the Margins to the Mainstream*

*Pussypedia*

*Keys to Youth Friendly Services: Adopting a Sex-Positive Approach*

### **Profiting by Sexualizing Children**

IPPF says it “puts young people at the centre of everything we do.”<sup>20</sup> IPPF explains its focus on young people saying, “The adolescence period provides a unique opportunity to shape the behaviour and attitudes of young men and boys for life.”<sup>21</sup> What interest does IPPF have in “shaping the behavior and attitudes” of young people for life? According to its stated objectives, IPPF wants to persuade young people to accept and live out the ideal that experiencing sexual pleasure is a human right and is “necessary for the development and well-being of all people and societies.”<sup>22</sup> It is interesting to note, however, that there is virtually no scientific evidence offered in IPPF resources to support the claim that sexual pleasure at every stage of life is necessary for physical or emotional well-being of individuals or societies. This is likely because of the scarcity of such data as well as the overwhelming data showing the exact opposite: that that delaying sexual activity and reserving sexual intimacy for one partner offers the most physical, emotional, social and monetary benefits.<sup>23</sup>

As an indication that it may not actually be young people’s physical, emotional, or monetary well-being IPPF is worried about, consider the following. In 2012, IPPF (**a non-profit organization**) reported net income of **\$144,792,000**; resources expended by IPPF for 2012 totaled \$122,947,000, leaving a differential of \$21,845,000.<sup>24</sup> Further, IPPF’s financial statements indicate that out of 309 total IPPF staff members, 38 of those employees earned between \$100,000 and \$350,000 in 2012.<sup>25</sup>

Similarly, Planned Parenthood Federation of America profits from the consequences of young people exercising their purported “sexual rights”—particularly ending unwanted pregnancies. **Planned Parenthood’s reported income from abortion in 2012 was \$170,126,320**, which

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid, p. 17.

<sup>20</sup> <http://ippf.org/resource/Love-sex-and-young-people-learning-our-peer-educators>

<sup>21</sup> Greer, Gill. *The Truth About Men, Boys and Sex: A gender-transformative guide*. London: IPPF. June 2009. <http://ippf.org/resource/Truth-About-Men-Boys-and-Sex-gender-transformative-guide>

<sup>22</sup> *Exclaim! Young people’s guide to ‘Sexual rights: an IPPF declaration*. London: IPPF. April 2011. P.4 [http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf\\_exclaim\\_lores.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf_exclaim_lores.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> “The Family GDP: How Marriage and Fertility Drive the Economy,” *The Family in America*, vol. 24, no. 2 [Spring 2010], 136.

<sup>24</sup> [http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements_2012_en.pdf), p. 23.

<sup>25</sup> [http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements_2012_en.pdf), p. 45.

accounted for 55 percent of clinic income.<sup>26</sup> And **Planned Parenthood’s president**, Cecile Richards, reportedly earned a total of **\$583,323** in 2012.<sup>27</sup>

It stands to reason that IPPF has recognized that the sooner a child becomes sexually active, the sooner he or she will become eligible for the services IPPF and its member associations offer, including contraceptives, STI testing and abortion. Once you have convinced a young person that it is their human right to experience sexual pleasure even in the face of great physical risks, and you are there to sell them the remedies for those risks, you have gained a client for life (so long as your client doesn’t suffer premature death from the consequences of exercising their sexual rights.) Planned Parenthood—just one of many IPPF member association—took in a reported **\$1.1 billion in 2012**.<sup>28</sup> Recruiting young people to the cause of sexual rights is big business.

### **Driving Public Policy**

IPPF’s “Goal 1” for the period leading up to 2015 is to spearhead “a global movement fighting for sexual rights and reproductive rights for all.” To achieve this goal, IPPF states it will “**fight for international agreement on the meaning and importance of human rights in sexual and reproductive health. We will similarly fight for national fulfillment of these rights in every country in which we operate.**”<sup>29</sup> If IPPF’s philosophy triumphs at the international level, it is likely that their influence will increase exponentially as their universally legitimized sexual programs affect the minds and influence the behavior of children all over the world, paid for by their own governments. Planned Parenthood states that it will advocate at every level for sexual rights and education, fighting “on campuses and online, in statehouses and courts, in community settings, and in the media, . . . with members of Congress, parents, or faith leaders, or arguing cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.”<sup>30</sup>

Stuart Halford, IPPF Advocacy Officer, explains a key way IPPF is accomplishing its goal of redefining sexual behaviors as human rights and enforcing those views: “IPPF is advancing sexual rights at the global level and we’re doing this through the **Universal Periodic Review Mechanism of the Human Rights Council** and that’s the process whereby each of the world’s 193 member states of the United Nations has their human rights record reviewed once every four and a half years...When a country comes up for review our member association is there ready to advocate.”<sup>31</sup>

Another IPPF official states, “We are still discussing with people about the right for sexuality education. I think we should not do that anymore, I mean it is a right; we should stop trying to

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<sup>26</sup> *Analysis of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT*. American Life League. Dec. 23, 2013, p.4.

<sup>27</sup> *Analysis of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT*. American Life League. Dec. 23, 2013, p.34. [http://www.stopp.org/PPFAReports/PPFA\\_2013\\_Report.pdf](http://www.stopp.org/PPFAReports/PPFA_2013_Report.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> *Planned Parenthood Federation of America: A 5-Part Analysis of Business Practices, Community Outcomes, and Taxpayer Funding*. American Life League. [www.stopp.org/PPFAReports/PPFA\\_2013\\_Report.pdf](http://www.stopp.org/PPFAReports/PPFA_2013_Report.pdf). p. 3.

<sup>29</sup> [http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements_2012_en.pdf), p. 9.

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/who-we-are-4648.htm>

<sup>31</sup> <http://ippf.org/resource/IPPFs-Sexual-Rights-Declaration>

negotiate about it.”<sup>32</sup> This statement reveals a tactic IPPF has used and will continue to use in the effort to establish sexual rights as globally recognized human rights once and for all: **to simply close the door on discussion and categorically declare that “sexual rights” are international human rights because they say so.** It would seem that IPPF does not really want to reach “international agreement” on sexual rights as they say, but rather they intend to declare their position as fact when in reality there is no international consensus on these highly controversial sexual issues. Their strategy is reminiscent of standard propaganda philosophies: “If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.”<sup>33</sup>

## Funding

As the sexual rights position gains popularity and protection under the law, IPPF’s funding is steadily increasing: “IPPF’s total income from governments, foundations and other sources rose by \$17.1 million between 2011 and 2012, an increase of 13 percent.”<sup>34</sup> Where does most of IPPF’s funding come from? According to IPPF’s financial statements for 2012, “**IPPF’s main source of funding is government grants**, which account for 62 percent (2011: 70 percent) of total income.”<sup>35</sup> Similarly, **Planned Parenthood** reportedly “**receives \$542 million in taxpayers’ funds, or 45 percent of its \$1.1 billion annual income through local, state, and federal agencies.**”<sup>36</sup>

IPPF also receives significant funding from **UN agencies** including UNFPA, UNAIDS and WHO.<sup>37</sup>

Interestingly, IPPF also has a financial partnership with the **Global Network of Sex Work Projects** (NSWP) in which IPPF funds are funneled to NSWP to help them achieve their goal of worldwide acceptance and decriminalization of sex work (prostitution).<sup>38</sup>

## Conclusion

IPPF and its member associations spend billions of dollars in countries around the world to expose children and teenagers to explicit sexual materials, normalize homosexuality, legalize prostitution, undermine religious and cultural values, and elevate sexual behaviors to the status of international human rights. **A key strategy to combating these efforts is to refuse to accept “sexual rights” as legitimate human rights.** Just as surely as IPPF can declare that sexual rights are human rights, others can maintain, with greater factual and historical basis, that they are not. Those in a position to oppose the acceptance of sexual rights language into binding and

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<sup>32</sup> <http://ippf.org/resource/Happy-60th-Birthday-IPPF>

<sup>33</sup> <http://thinkexist.com/quotation/-if-you-tell-a-lie-big-enough-and-keep-repeating/345877.html>, attributed to Joseph Goebbels.

<sup>34</sup> <http://ippf.org/resource/Financial-Statements-2012>

<sup>35</sup> [http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements_2012_en.pdf), p. 18.

<sup>36</sup> Planned Parenthood Federation of America: A 5-Part Analysis of Business Practices, Community Outcomes, and Taxpayer Funding conducted by American Life League.

[http://www.stopp.org/PPFAReports/PPFA\\_2013\\_Report.pdf](http://www.stopp.org/PPFAReports/PPFA_2013_Report.pdf), p. 3.

<sup>37</sup> [http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements\\_2012\\_en.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements_2012_en.pdf), p. 33.

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.nswp.org/page/membership-and-governance>

non-binding international declarations and agreements should fight vigorously to keep such language out. Additionally, citizens should seek to reduce or eliminate government funding for IPPF comprehensive sexuality education programs which indoctrinate children in sexual rights philosophies that not only run counter to prevalent religious and cultural beliefs in their countries, but have been shown to sow the seeds of personal and social harm.